

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1-8 are pending in this application. Changes to claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,035,243 to Galuga et al. (hereinafter, merely “Galuga”).

Claims 2, 4, 6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Galuga in view of Swinson et. al. Expanding frontiers of Humanoid Robotics; Intelligent Systems and Their Applications, IEEE, (July/August 2000)

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“...determination means for determining as a function of said external or internal situation and a corresponding serious level of the external or internal situation whether to ask for help,

wherein the serious level indicates how serious the external or internal situation is for the robot itself...”(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, Galuga relates to a method and apparatus for utilizing the characteristics of a pallet, or tray, used to supply workpieces to an automated, flexible assembly station or workcell. Once the characteristics are described and stored in memory, they may be used to uniquely identify workpieces which are determined to be defective during the automatic assembly operations. The defect information may then be stored in a cell controller which controls one or more workcells for later recall, in order to determine what, if any, further processing should be conducted on the defective workpieces and to prevent further processing thereof.

Applicants submit that Galuga fails to teach or suggest the features of claim 1. Specifically, Applicants submit Galunga fails to teach or suggest determination means for determining as a function of said external or internal situation and a corresponding serious level of the external or internal situation whether to ask for help, wherein the serious level indicates how serious the external or internal situation is for the robot itself, as recited in claim 1.

Applicants submit that cited portions of Galunga, specifically Col. 12 lines 29-36, disclose “As shown in detail in FIGS. 9A and 9B, when an error is detected by error checking step 204, which is likely to be an integral part of assembly operation 202, the first operation conducted by the application process executing on the robot controller is to interrogate the process error data, step 220. This step essentially determines where the error has been reported from, for example the robot or an inspection device object, and what type of error was detected.”

However, Galunga contains no disclosure with respect to determining a serious level, or in other words a gradation of the problem. Galunga merely discloses “where the error

has been reported from, for example the robot or an inspection device object, and what type of error was detected.” Not the level of the internal or external situation.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 1 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 1, claim 5 is patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claim discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

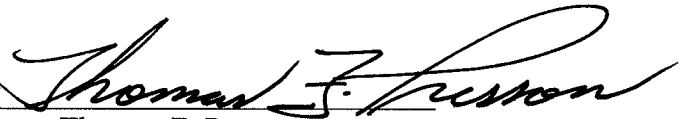
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In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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By

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Thomas F. Presson", written over a horizontal line.

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